



A New Vision – Autumn 2021

WELCOME.

SPURRIERGATE was, for a millennium, a consecrated building and also a parish church, until the parish was combined with other small city centre parishes in the 1980s. Since 1989 this wonderful ancient building dating from the 12th century, owned by the Diocese of York and situated in a prime location at the heart of this historic city, has been the responsibility of St Michael's York Trust. Whilst no longer a church building in the formal sense, Spurriergate remains a focus for the good news of Jesus Christ.

For almost thirty years the Trust provided a commercial restaurant, cafe and shop selling fairly traded goods six days a week, offered by a combination of paid staff and volunteers. That service closed three years ago as it could no longer pay its way. The Trustees then provided a 'pay as you feel' informal cafe service on most weekdays until it was forced to close by the first pandemic lockdown in March 2020. For several years we have provided (and continue to provide) a specialist counselling service, run from the Centre.

For the past year the Trustees and our three members of staff have been praying and seeking God's will about our future role and purpose. We feel that we have heard firmly from the Lord that we must enter a new season, concentrating on future rather than past needs. So we have embarked on a massive clear out of furniture and fittings to provide a flexible space which may meet a variety of developing needs, both now and in the years to come. We will no longer trade commercially or compete directly with the many catering opportunities provided in York, but will serve this city and its visitors by being here for them.

So our forward mission is both welcoming and simple.

In line with our Christian convictions we will worship, pray to the Lord and share his Word. In addition, we hope to offer peace and tranquility. So this is a place of sanctuary from the high street, as bustle and business return to it after the pandemic. We welcome visitors and offer hospitality, of the sort we would expect in visiting each other's homes, rather than by providing formal catering. A friendly word, refreshment of the 'tea and cake' variety and space to chat, ponder and reflect, as well as creating new contacts, will all be available. This is a place to meet friends and create new ones, without the pressure of having to buy food and drink, face tight time limits or be distracted by commercial offers.

Our specialist counselling service continues as clearly there is a great need for it. However, this professional service is finite, so assessment and capacity limits its availability.

We are very happy to provide some support more flexibility in other ways, through conversation, informal encounters, a listening ear, and where requested and appropriate, prayer support.

We want to welcome both individuals and groups who share our commitment to mission, hospitality and social justice. We hope that some of our previous users will return, but we

really do want this to be a new start for us all, so are looking for opportunities which respond to current and predicted needs.

Some questions:

- Would you like to be part of the new Spurriergate?
- Could you help us to meet the needs of the community through this unique place?
- What could you bring that would make a difference to others?

If you have an activity or skill which you think fits our ethos and available space please discuss it with us, or message us through our website, telephone or Facebook. The Trustees may require a contribution to our running costs for particular activities, but we can discuss that as part of our exploration as to whether a place here is right for you and us.

Our future activities will be funded largely by individual financial contributions and expanded through offers of voluntary help. Details of how to give in this way are indicated below and on our website: www.thespurriergatecentre.com

Our overriding purpose is to offer something of the love of Jesus Christ and provide a glimpse of His Kingdom to all of us who share our time and activity here.'

We would love to hear from you!

Donation and contact information:

help@thespurriergatecentre.com

www.thespurriergatecentre.com

<https://www.mygivinghub.com/go?id=a0OMKeo2k6>

